Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :   Docket No: ACO 2694 P1US
  GERARD H. DAVIES   et al.   :
                                         :   Examiner: M.E. Barr
Serial No: 09/936,794   :
                                         :   Group Art Unit: 1762
Filing Date: November 13, 2001   :
                                         :
Title: PRIMER COATING OF STEEL   :

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
    Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of January 14,2004.

A two-month extension of time to respond is requested so that the period for response expires on June 14, 2004.

All grounds of rejection that are based upon the citation of the Sano patent, as articulated on pages 2-4 of the Office Action should be removed in view of the submittal of the attached Declaration of Peter Greenwood. As Mr. Greenwood explains in the Declaration, Sano only discloses a silicate solution that contains large lumps of amorphous silica. Furthermore, Mr. Greenwood explains the differences that exist between a silicate solution and a silica sol. From the contents of this Declaration, it is clear that Sano fails to either show or suggest a process in which a composition containing a silica sol is used. The process that is claimed in the present application, on the other hand, is one in which a composition comprising a silica sol is used. The pending Claims therefore are

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directed to subject matter that is neither shown or suggested by the Sano patent.

The additional citation of Plueddemann (to reject Claim 4) and of Kolk (to reject Claims 5-6 and 18-20) both fail to cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Sano in showing or suggesting the major features of the claimed invention. Removal of reliance upon either of these secondary citations in conjunction with Sano is also requested.

Allowance of all pending claims is requested for the reasons given hereinbefore.

Respectfully submitted,

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